

## Call for Submission of Areas of Research and Scholarship Excellence at UT

Promoting excellence and recognition in research and scholarly activities are critical components of the University of Toledo's 5-year strategic plan, *Path to Excellence*. The box shows Goal 1 in the *Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity* section of the Strategic Plan. The Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, working in concert with the University Research Council, supports this plan by identifying research and scholarship areas that can achieve nationally-recognized excellence, or have already achieved this distinction. Excellence can come from any disciplinary field across the spectrum of programs offered at UT, including those not normally associated with sponsored research activity.

### II. RESEARCH, SCHOLARSHIP, AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY

#### GOAL 1. ACHIEVE NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

1. Develop and implement a plan for national recognition in up to five areas of research excellence, building upon the University's unique faculty strengths, assets and centers to support research excellence and opportunities for growth and development.

#### Outcomes:

- Implemented plan for two areas of excellence in biomedical and environmental sustainability research.
- Additional areas of excellence to be identified, in collaboration with faculty, with plans for implementation.

*The University of Toledo's Path to Excellence: Strategic Plan 2017-2022*

No one knows UT's research and scholarship strengths better than its faculty. We need faculty guidance in identifying research and scholarship activities that currently have national recognition or have the potential to develop national prominence with additional support and leadership.

### Recognizing Areas of Excellence

Although University resources are limited at the moment, identifying areas of excellence helps the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs support and prepare groups for success in acquiring intra- and extramural resources when available. Focused effort makes identifying funding sources more efficient and helps raise the profile of research and scholarly activities.

Strong research and scholarship areas can influence hiring decisions and create urgency in obtaining adequate support facilities, such as instrumentation cores for STEM fields or facilities for arts and humanities disciplines.

We invite faculty members to nominate areas by submitting a document that includes:

- The name and brief description of the area (1 page limit)
- The area's specific focus (1 page limit)
- A list of disciplines/academic departments involved
- In what ways focus area can achieve excellence, or how it has already done so (2 page limit)
- The names of leaders/contact persons responsible for organizing, leading, and representing this area

- Names and academic titles and two-page c.v. of at least 4 additional participating faculty members

Faculty members are encouraged to take this opportunity to propose interdisciplinary consortia to tackle issues that cannot otherwise be addressed or form creative activities across disciplines. Proposals that include collaboration with other institutions and outside core disciplines of the group are also encouraged. The Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, working with the University Research Council, will meet with promising groups to develop plans to provide additional documentation and elaboration needed to identify areas of research and scholarship excellence.

Please take time to think creatively about this and send your ideas as described above to Dr. Jack Schultz ([john.schultz@utoledo.edu](mailto:john.schultz@utoledo.edu)) by January 22, 2018. We look forward to hearing from you!